



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced today that the Federal Grand Jury for the District of Delaware has returned an indictment charging Mark Nepi with possessing four unregistered firearms. Nepi, age 27, lives in Brookmeade II, a Wilmington suburb.

The charge against Nepi alleges that on April 20, 2004, he possessed a Norinco model MAK-90 SPORTER 7.62x39mm caliber machine gun, a silencer, and two AR-15 drop-in auto sears, which were not registered to him under the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Auto sears are parts designed to convert a weapon into a machine gun, and are considered machine guns themselves. Machine guns, silencers and devices designed to convert weapons into machine guns are all defined as firearms under the federal law that requires that certain types of firearms must be registered with the Secretary of the Treasury. Such weapons include fully automatic weapons, or machine guns, sawed-off rifles and shotguns, and silencers. The firearms which are the subject of the indictment were discovered in Nepi's residence during a search by officers from the Delaware State Police and State Probation and Parole. If convicted, Nepi faces up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

In addition to the Delaware State Police and State Probation and Parole Officers, Special Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives participated in the

investigation which led to the indictment. For further information, please contact Assistant United States Ferris W. Wharton at 302-573-6277, ext. 173.

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